

least each connecting section of each contact element is one of: i) partially extrusion-coated with plastic to form the housing, and ii) clamped between two halves of the housing.

15. (Amended) A method of producing a multipole electrical connector, the method comprising:

D2 producing a contact set from a single metal strip, the contact set including a plurality of contact elements, each of the contact elements including a contact section and a connecting section, each of the contact elements configured to receive a different counter-contact section of a multipole mating connector, the contact elements being arranged in a single plane and forming a single-layer stamped grid; and supporting the contact set within a housing.

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D3 18. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of producing the contact set includes producing at least one crossbar between the plurality of contact elements.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 18, further comprising:

removing the at least one crossbar.

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Please add the following new claims:

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24. (New) A multipole electrical connector for providing a releasable coupling with a multipole mating connector, comprising:

D4 a housing; and

a contact set supported in the housing, the contact set including a plurality of contact elements, each of the contact elements including a contact section and a connecting section, a first one of the contact elements being configured to receive a first counter-contact section of the multipole mating connector, and a second one of the contact elements

being configured to receive a second counter contact section of the multipole mating connector, the second counter contact section being oriented in a different direction than the first counter contact section; wherein the contact elements are arranged in a single plane and form a single-layer stamped grid.

25. (New) The connector according to claim 25, wherein the first counter contact section and the second counter contact section are oriented perpendicularly relative to one another.

26. (New) A method of producing a multipole electrical connector, the method comprising:

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producing a contact set from a single metal strip, the contact set including a plurality of contact elements, each of the contact elements including a contact section and a connecting section, each of the contact elements configured to receive a different counter-contact section of a multipole mating connector, a first one of the contact elements being configured to receive a first counter-contact section of a multipole mating connector, and a second one of the contact elements being configured to receive a second counter contact section of the multipole mating connector, the second counter contact section being oriented in a different direction than the first counter contact section, the contact elements being arranged in a single plane and forming a single-layer stamped grid; and

supporting the contact set within a housing.

27. (New) The method according to claim connector according to claim 26, wherein the first counter contact section and the second counter contact section are oriented perpendicularly relative to one another.

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